

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 has been canceled, and claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1 and 3-15 are pending in this application.

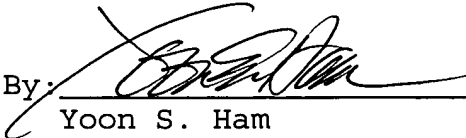
Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. However, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2-5 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has canceled claim 2 and amended claim 1 to include all of the limitations of canceled claim 2. Accordingly, Applicant submits that this rejection is now deemed moot.

Therefore, amended claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-5 are now believed to be allowable.

Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 6-15 are allowed.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3-15 are now in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If any issues remain to be resolved, the Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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